

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF DR. RUSSELL F. BLOWERS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of the best men I have had the privilege to know. His life reflects his life's work: Preaching the message of Jesus. Dr. Russell F. Blowers has served his congregation at East 91st Street Christian Church in Indianapolis for 45 years. As Russ retires I am filled with mixed emotions. While I am happy that he will be able to have time for new ventures, he will be sorely missed in the weeks, months, and years to come.

Under his committed leadership, Dr. Blowers has seen church membership grow from 85 people on his first Sunday, to nearly 4,000, making it one of Indiana's largest congregations. East 91st Street Church has provided a myriad of ways for its members to serve, grow spiritually, and evangelize. Russ attributes this amazing growth to having stayed true to the Christian scriptures. By God's grace, Russ has remained faithful to the gospel by preaching the lordship of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, the essential plan of salvation through the Cross and resurrection, and the inerrant nature of the divinely inspired Word of God.

Russ Blowers has preached about issues that transcend politics and reflect unchangeable Biblical truths, such as opposition to abortion and that homosexuality is against God's will. Russ has counseled Senator RICHARD LUGAR, former Vice President Dan Quayle, Representative ANDY JACOBS, and myself, a member of the church since 1981. ANDY JACOBS has said, "I think Russ's legacy will be that he showed us all the potential of the human heart. He showed us what a considerable contribution one person can make by simply seeking to love and be loved in return." I wholeheartedly agree with my colleague. Russ Blowers has lived out the words he has preached. He is Christ-like.

Russ was born in Zanesville, OH, in 1924. He is a World War II veteran, having served with the 343d Fighter Squadron, 55th Fighter Group of the 8th Air Force in England and Germany. After his return from the 8th Air Force, Russ entered Ohio University as a journalism-advertising major and met his future wife, Marian. She introduced Russ to Christianity. "She didn't beat me over the head with the Bible," he says. "She just lived the life and answered my dumb questions about the Bible. I fell in love with her first and then with my Lord."

After graduation from Ohio University, Russ received a Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary and Milligan College later conferred on him with the Doctor of Divinity. Dr. Russ Blowers became pastor of East 49th Street Christian Church in 1951. As the church grew, the congregation changed its

name when it moved to 6049 East 91st Street. Russ Blowers preached his final sermon on September 8, 1996. He sums up his ministry by reflecting, "Above all, as I close this phase of my ministry, I give God the glory for whatever has been accomplished. He has been faithful to me beyond my deserving, and my most precious honor is being one of His children, one of His servants."

Russ has also been involved in ministry beyond his local congregation. He has preached in 11 nations and has hosted nine tour groups to Europe and the Middle East. He hosted "The Chapel Door" live on WISH-TV daily for 12 years. Russ has also been a contributing columnist for "The Lookout Magazine" as well as the church's newsletter "The 91st Edition."

Russ and Marian have two sons: Philip, Marion County deputy prosecuting attorney; and Paul, associate professor of church history at Emmanuel School of Religion. Their accomplished sons will confirm that this Pastor who loved the congregation of East 91st Street is the same genuine article at home with his family as he is in the pulpit. The Blowers also have four grandchildren: Shannon, Alison, Leslie, and Colin.

Russ has not only been a great pastor, he has also been my good friend and confidant through the years. May the Lord continue to bless Russ and Marian very generously in the years to come, in the way that they have been a blessing to others.

## ST. BONIFACE CHURCH CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues, the 100th anniversary of St. Boniface Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in the observance of this milestone.

On August 16, 1896 a group of German immigrants from the Pfalz region of Bavaria met to form a new congregation. An executive committee of 12 was formed to obtain permission from the bishop to build a new church. When permission was granted a lot was purchased on Blackman Street in Wilkes-Barre. Five men mortgaged their homes to provide the initial money to build the church. On October 4, 1896 the cornerstone of the church was laid by Bishop O'Hara. The original construction cost of the church was \$4,345.

On the suggestion of Bishop O'Hara and reflecting the German heritage of the majority of the parishioners, the church was named after St. Boniface, the apostle of the Germans as the church's patron saint.

The first mass was held in March 1897 in the newly built church which still didn't have pews. The dedication of the church followed shortly after that. The first pastor of the church

was the Reverend Charles J. Goeckel who lived with neighbors until a rectory could be built at the church.

The church began a series of fundraising activities and parish socials in order to raise money for construction of facilities and to provide community services for the parishioners. The traditional St. Boniface "Kaffee Klatsch" is still held today on Shrove Tuesday night as a way for members of the parish to get together.

Under the leadership of the Reverend Charles Von Weldon, the parish and community offerings of St. Boniface grew and the adjoining convent was enlarged.

Mr. Speaker, every succeeding pastor of St. Boniface helped to expand and enlarge the property and make the parish prosper. The church today is an important presence in the religious life of the Wyoming Valley. Serving German immigrants and others for 100 years, St. Boniface has continued the traditions and preserved the heritage of its founders.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate St. Boniface on this milestone in its history and send best wishes for continued prosperity.

## THE PASSING OF EVELYN DAVIS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep regret to inform our colleagues of the passing of an outstanding journalist and publisher who was widely read and respected in my 20th district of New York.

Evelyn Burtz Davis, a resident of Old Tappan, NJ, was the publisher of the Rockland County Times, located in Haverstraw, NY. Recently, she became publisher also of the Rockland Review, also published in Rockland County, NY.

In her role as publisher of the Times since 1984, she became known for the caustic comments and unique insight of her editorials. Although she quite often advocated stands on issues with which on occasion I was in total disagreement, no one could ever question the extensive research which Evelyn undertook on each and every editorial she composed. While many of us may have often questioned her conclusions, no one ever questioned the factual validity of the data which led her to make these conclusions. No one ever questioned the intellectual integrity for which Evelyn Davis became a living legend in our community.

Perhaps most significantly of all, no matter how deeply Evelyn may have disagreed with a public official on an issue, she always welcomed divergent points of view, and was never afraid to change her mind or to have errors pointed out to her. Evelyn always, with gracious enthusiasm, afforded space in her own newspaper for those who wished to express opinions contrary to her own or who wished to rebut her editorials.

Evelyn was the widow of Sylvan Davis, who preceded her as publisher of the Rockland

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